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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 2 April 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to my letters to you regarding the plight of Palestinian prisoners and detainees under Israeli occupation, it is my profound regret to inform you of the death of another Palestinian man imprisoned by Israel, the occupying Power. Today, Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh, aged 64, died as a result of prolonged medical neglect by the occupying Power. He is the 207th Palestinian to die while in Israeli custody.

Despite being diagnosed with cancer several months ago, Abu Hamdiyeh was denied the necessary medical treatment for his condition and given only painkillers. Israel failed to provide him with proper medical care during his imprisonment, allowing the cancer to spread throughout his body. Israel also rejected prior appeals by the Palestinian leadership to release Abu Hamdiyeh to permit him to receive urgent medical treatment for the cancer. By the time that Abu Hamdiyeh was transferred to an Israeli hospital late in March, the disease had already overcome him and he was left there to die. Among his family, Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh leaves behind his four children, whom he had not seen since his most recent detention by Israel in 2002 and the decision by the occupying Power to ban his family visits.

The Palestinian people and their leadership hold Israel, the occupying Power, responsible for the death of Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh and they mourn his passing. Moreover, it must be reiterated that Israel is responsible for the safety, well-being and condition of all Palestinians being held in its captivity, including women and children and all ill prisoners, 25 of whom are reported to be suffering from cancer.

In this connection, we once again underscore the plight of another Palestinian prisoner, Samer Issawi, who remains on a prolonged hunger strike of more than 250 days in protest at his administrative detention by Israel without charge or trial. Issawi's health is in a grave condition and doctors have reported that his death is imminent. We call once again for his immediate release and for respect of his rights and the rights of all Palestinians in Israeli jails, both inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel itself.

13-28035 (E) 040413

Please recycle

We have repeatedly drawn the international community's attention to the plight of the nearly 5,000 Palestinians who are being unlawfully imprisoned and detained by Israel in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law. Palestinian prisoners and detainees are constantly being subjected to physical and psychological abuse and mistreatment by Israel, the occupying Power. This includes beatings, forced interrogations, humiliation, medical neglect and denial of access to education, to family visits and to due process of the law, as well as solitary confinement and other forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. As such, the Palestinian leadership has reiterated the call for international monitoring of the conditions of the Palestinians held in Israeli jails and detention centres and appeals to the international community to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, respect the human rights of all Palestinians in its captivity and respect its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which governs situations of foreign occupation.

As we have repeatedly stated, the plight of Palestinian prisoners is among the highest priorities for the Palestinian leadership and remains a core, sensitive issue affecting nearly every Palestinian family. According to data amassed by the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, at least 800,000 Palestinians have been arrested by Israel since the occupation began in 1967. In fact, Israel continues to arrest and detain Palestinians on a near-daily basis, with recent reports indicating that, since the start of 2013, Israel has arrested at least 1,070 Palestinians. This includes the arrest of 234 children in the past three months, some as young as 8 years old.

The continuation of this aggression by the occupying Power is raising tensions and anger among the Palestinian people. Demonstrations have broken out throughout the State of Palestine, including in Al-Khalil, Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Nablus and Ramallah, as a result of this latest tragedy, to which the Israeli occupying forces have responded with typical excessive force, including the firing of rubber bullets, tear gas canisters and sound bombs, and the arrest of several protesters. Abu Hamdiyeh's death has also raised tensions among Palestinian prisoners and detainees, who have protested in at least two prisons, including the "Eshel" prison where Abu Hamdiyeh had been held, and who have declared a three-day hunger strike in protest at his death.

We reiterate our calls for international action, including by all relevant organs of the United Nations, to address this gross violation of the rights of the Palestinian people, who continue to suffer under Israel's nearly 46-year military occupation. The international community's continued failure to hold Israel accountable for its violations and crimes is only fostering further impunity, inflicting more hardship and injustice on the Palestinian people and further delaying the long-overdue realization of their inalienable human rights, freedom and dignity and further delaying peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 458 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 14 March 2013 (A/ES-10/585-S/2013/160) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations

being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/587–S/2013/218

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8 April 2013

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 5 April 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate as a result of the brutality and illegal actions of Israel, the occupying Power. The Israeli occupying forces continue to attack Palestinian civilians, including those engaged in peaceful demonstrations against the occupation, causing death and injury to them.

The latest victims of such excessive and indiscriminate use of force were two Palestinian boys, Amer Nassar, age 17, and Naji Al-Balbisi, age 18. The boys were killed on Wednesday, 3 April 2013, after being shot by the occupying forces at a checkpoint near their hometown of Anabta, east of Tulkarem, during demonstrations there following the death of the Palestinian prisoner, Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh, in an Israeli jail due to deliberate medical neglect. Further demonstrations broke out in Tulkarem on Thursday during the emotional funeral processions for Nassar and Al-Balbisi.

Demonstrations decrying Abu Hamdiyeh's death have also continued in Palestinian cities, especially in Al-Khalil, where he was from, and Palestinian prisoners continue their hunger strike in protest of his death and of Israel's constant abuse of prisoners. Large civilian protests and general strikes have been undertaken in Palestinian cities from the north to the south of the country in a collective expression of the anger, frustration and despair at the occupying Power's oppression and its illegal practices, foremost the killing of civilians, imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians and rabid colonization of the Palestinian land. The Israeli occupying forces have persisted in attacking such demonstrations, including with live ammunition, as well as attacking mourners during funeral processions for Palestinians killed by the occupying Power, denying families the right to bury their dead in dignity. Even the peaceful act of planting trees during the Palestinian commemoration of "Land Day" on 30 March was responded to with force by Israel, causing injury to dozens of civilians.

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Israel's violent repression of protests has also involved the arrest and detention of more Palestinians, including children, both during demonstrations and in military raids, particularly against those towns and villages engaged in protest. Such military aggression, in addition to the extreme lawlessness and terror being perpetrated by Israeli settlers against the Palestinian people, is stoking already-high tensions and threatens to fuel another deadly cycle of violence.

We are thus compelled to draw urgent attention to this serious situation and to call on the international community to uphold the rule of law and human rights. The international community, including the Security Council, must demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease its military aggression against the Palestinian people, respect their human rights, including the right to peaceful protest, and comply with all of its legal obligations under international law. The continued failure to hold Israel accountable for its crimes and violations risks the total destabilization of the situation on the ground, with all of its attendant consequences, including destruction of the fledgling regional and international efforts to revive the prospects for peace. A strong, unequivocal message must be sent by the international community that it rejects Israel's illegal policies, intransigence and constant thwarting of peace efforts and is determined to achieve a peaceful and just solution to this conflict in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 459 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 2 April 2013 (A/ES-10/586-S/2013/206), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations